



<b>General</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Buoyage System</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Currency</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Holidays</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Industries</b>	<b>165</b>
<b>Languages</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Regulations</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Time Zone</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>U.S. Embassy</b>	<b>167</b>

## General

Northern Mariana Islands, a self-governing U.S. commonwealth, is located in the North Pacific Ocean. It consists of a chain of volcanic islands, which extends in a N and S direction for about 450 miles. The islands in the group from N to S are Farallon de Pajaros, Maug, Asuncion, Agrihan, Pagan, Alamagan, Guguan, Sarigan, Anatahan, Farallon de Medinilla, Saipan, Tinian, Aguijan, and Rota.

Except for Maug, which is a cluster of tiny islands, all are single islands which rise precipitously as mountain peaks of rocky, volcanic material. Their total land area is about 184 square miles. The three principal islands, Saipan (47 square miles), Tinian (39 square miles), and Rota (32 square miles) form two-thirds of the land area of the group. Guam, a U.S. Territory since 1898, is not included in the Northern Marianas.

The climate is tropical marine and moderated by NE trade winds. There is little seasonal temperature change. The dry season is December to June. The rainy season is July to October.

The terrain is limestone with level terraces and fringing coral reefs in the S islands. The N islands are volcanic.

## Buoyage System

The IALA Buoyage System (Region A) is in effect. See Chart No. 1 for further IALA Buoyage System information.

## Currency

The official unit of currency is the United States dollar, consisting of 100 cents.

## Government

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana is self-governing with a local elected governor, lieutenant governor, and legislature. Federal funds to the Commonwealth are administered by the Department of the Interior, Office of Territorial and International Affairs.

The capital is Saipan.

## Holidays

The following holiday is observed:  
January 8, Commonwealth Day.

## Industries

The main industries are based on tourism, construction, light industry, and handicrafts. Copra and fish are the two most important exports. Small quantities of vegetables, fruit, and staple crops are exported.

The principal livestock are pigs and poultry. Forestry activities are minimal. Food, construction equipment and materials, and petroleum products are major imports.

Small scale local industries include handicrafts, bakeries, boat building, and fish-processing. Bauxite and phosphates are produced.

## Languages

The official languages of the Northern Mariana Islands are English, Chamorro, and Carolinian.

## Regulations

The Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is a strategic area administered by the United States under the provisions of a Trusteeship Agreement with the United Nations.

By Executive Order 11021 of 7 May 1962, the Secretary of the Interior has been charged with the administrative responsibility for all of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Under an agreement between the Department of the U.S. Navy and the Department of the Interior, effective 1 July 1963, the entry of all individuals, ships, and aircraft into the Trust Territory, is subject to control.

Control is exercised by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the Department of the Navy through the Immigration Offices of the three new states, except for the islands in the Kwajalein Atoll. Entry into islands in the Kwajalein Atoll under military jurisdiction is controlled by the Department of the Army. Entry into the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is controlled by the CNMI Office of Immigration and Naturalization.

Entry of U.S. citizens and nationals, and citizens of the trust territory into areas of the Trust Territory other than those under military control shall be controlled by the High Commissioner or the Office of Immigration and Naturalization of the state for which entry is desired.

Applications for entry into the Trust Territory, except for those areas under military control, of all persons who are not U.S. citizens and nationals, or who are not citizens of the Trust Territory, shall be made to the High Commissioner or to the Office of Immigration and Naturalization of the state for which entry is desired, for processing in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Trust Territory. Provided that prior to the issuance of an authorization to enter the Trust Territory, the High Commissioner shall provide the Department of the Navy in all cases with information on the applicants for its consideration and comment, granting thereby the Department of the Navy the right to object to the issuance of an authorization.

The entry of ships and aircraft, other than U.S. public ships and aircraft, documented under either the laws of the United States or the laws of the Trust Territory other than those set forth above, shall be controlled solely by the High Commissioner.

Applications for entry into the Trust Territory, except for those areas under military control, of ships and aircraft not documented under the laws of the United States or the laws of the Trust Territory shall be made to the High Commissioner or to the Office of Immigration and Naturalization of the state for which entry is desired, for processing in accordance with the laws and regulations of the Trust Territory.

Prior to the issuance of an authorization to enter the Trust Territory, the High Commissioner shall provide the Department of the Navy in all cases with information on the applicants for its consideration and comment, granting thereby the right of the Department of the Navy to object to the issuance of an authorization.

## Special Provisions

Other authorization is required for entry into islands in the Kwajalein Atoll under military jurisdiction.

Kwajalein Atoll is subject to local control by the Department of the Army.

Inquiries concerning entry into the islands under military control in the Kwajalein Atoll should be directed to: National Range Commander, U.S. Army Ballistic Missile Defense System Command, Attention: SSC-R, Post Office Box 1500, Huntsville, AL 35807.

## Missile Testing Area

Missile testing occurs in the waters within a circular area with a radius of 200 miles, centered at 8°43'00"N, 167°43'00"E. Intermittent hazardous missile operations will be conducted within the area on a permanent basis.

## Advisory Instructions

Kwajalein Test Site will coordinate safe passage for surface shipping through the area.

All ships are advised to contact Kwajalein control before entering the area.

## Suspension of Restrictions

Restrictions imposed under the authority of Executive Order on entry into the Wake Island Naval Sea Area, except for entry of foreign flag ships and foreign nationals, have been suspended subject to reinstatement without notice at any time when the purposes of national defense should require it.

Suspension of restrictions on entry into a naval airspace reservation, naval defensive sea area, or naval administrative area, does not affect the authority of a commanding officer or other appropriate commander to control entry into or passage through any base, station, or the installation or area, including port or harbor facilities under Navy control.

Entry Authorization:

1. Chief of Naval Operations—Authorization for all persons, ships, or aircraft to enter all defensive areas.
2. Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet—Authorization for all persons, ships, or aircraft to enter defensive areas in the Pacific.
3. Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Mariana—Authorization for U.S. citizens and U.S. registered private vessels to enter the military areas in that portion of the Trust Territory W of 160°E, and in conjunction with the High Commissioner and Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for non-U.S. citizens and ships or aircraft documented under laws other than those of the United States or the Trust Territory for entry into areas in the Trust Territory not under military jurisdiction or control.

Requests for entry must be made to the Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, D.C., 20350, or the Commander in Chief, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96950 and to the High Commissioner, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Saipan; CNMI 96950, or to the Office of Immigration and Naturalization, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, CNMI 96950.

Vessels in distress may enter any of the islands of the Trust Territory, subject to local control and clearance by the senior officer present.

Requests should contain the following information:

1. Name of vessel.
2. Place of registry and registry number.
3. Name, nationality, and address of owner.
4. Name, nationality, and address of operator.
5. Gross tonnage of vessel.
6. Nationality and number of officers and crew.
7. Number of passengers.
8. Last port of call prior to entry.
9. Purpose of visit.
10. Proposed entry date and estimated duration of stay.

11. Any additional information that may be relative.

**Time Zone**

The Time Zone description is KILO (-10).

**U.S. Embassy**

There are no U.S. diplomatic offices.